

Cooperation and Good Cause

Cooperating with Child Support

- The Wisconsin Works (W-2) program requires you and all single, separated or divorced parents in your household to cooperate with the Child Support Program. For example, if your child is a teen mother and lives with you, both you and the teen mother must cooperate.
- If any single, separated or divorced parent in your household fails to cooperate, **no one in the household may take part in W-2**, including W-2 job programs, training programs or child care.

What must I do to cooperate?

You need to:

- Name the other parent of your child.
- Give the child support agency the information they ask for about your child's other parent.
- Keep your appointments with your child support worker.
- Attend court hearings about your child support case.
- Appear with your children for scheduled genetic tests.

- Send any child support paid directly to you by the other parent to the Wisconsin Support Collections Trust Fund.
- Pay child support as ordered by a court or as stated in a child support payment plan.

Cooperation must continue in order for you to take part in W-2.

Good Cause

What if I have a good reason for not cooperating with child support?

If you believe you or your children may be harmed if you cooperate with the child support agency, talk with your W-2 worker and file a Good Cause claim. The W-2 Agency will decide whether or not Good Cause exists.

What is Good Cause?

Good Cause exists when:

- You believe that cooperation with the child support agency may cause physical or emotional harm to you or your child, or
- Your child was conceived as a result of incest or sexual assault, or
- An adoption petition has been filed with the court, or
- You are being helped for three (3) months or less by a public or private

social agency in deciding if your parental rights should be ended.

You will be asked to give written evidence to support your Good Cause claim. If you have problems getting evidence, your W-2 worker can help you.

The W-2 agency will consider the evidence you present, and decide whether or not you will have to cooperate with the child support agency under the circumstances.

What if I do not agree with the decision?

If you do not agree with the final decision about Good Cause, you may request a fact-finding review from the W-2 agency.

Not Cooperating

What will happen if I do not cooperate?

If you, or any other parent in your household, do not cooperate with child support without Good Cause, no member of your household will be able to take part in W-2 until cooperation begins.

When can I start in W-2 again?

You may begin again as soon as you start to cooperate with child support. Please contact your child support agency to find out what you need to do. If you are sanctioned three (3) times, you will not be allowed to take part in W-2 again until

everyone in your household cooperates, or for a period of six (6) months, whichever is later.

What should I do if I am told that I am not cooperating, but I believe I am cooperating?

You may ask for a review. The child support agency will set up a meeting with a "fact finder" to review your case. You may bring a representative with you to this meeting. The fact finder will mail you a notice of his or her findings. If the fact finder decides you have not been cooperating, the notice will tell you how you may appeal the finding.

Privacy Protection:

If the release of your address, phone number, employer or other location information would put you or your children at risk of harm, talk to your child support worker to request privacy protection.

Please Note: This brochure only covers cooperation with your child support agency. Cooperating with the W-2 program (such as attending training or work) is a separate matter. Please ask your W-2 agency about cooperation with the W-2 program.

Who can I call for help?

or contact:

Your local child support agency (listed in the phone book under "county government" or tribal name.

Your local W-2 agency (listed in your phone book under "county government."

DWD is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, please call (608) 266-9909 or (800) 947-3529 TTY (WTRS) (Toll Free).

Cooperation
and
Good Cause

Child
Support
and
W~2